

Actinea herbacea

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From a phytogeographical standpoint, the sand barrens of central Illinois extending from Pekin to Meredosia on the eastern side of the Illinois river have long been a center of botanical interest. Carl Geyer (1) visited the locality almost one hundred



Actinea herbacea near Manito, Ill.

years ago and collected *Trautvetteria palmata* Fisch & Mey which since has never been reported elsewhere in the state. Later Gleason (2) found many western species including *Cristatella Jamesii* T. & G. and *Lesquerella spathulata* Rydb. The

latter were never reported east of central Nebraska prior to Gleason's work.

In the spring of 1934 the writer visited a section of the sandy bluff overlooking the Illinois valley six miles north of the city of Manito. Associated with plants such as *Opuntia Rafinesquii*, *Phlox bifida* and others of the bunch-grass association, there were found many specimens of *Actinea herbacea* (Greene) Robinson. Hitherto, *Actinea herbacea* has only been found at Joliet, Illinois, and in Ottawa County, Ohio. Cowles (3) considered it a relative of *A. acaulis*, a pioneer xerophyte in the Rocky Mountain region which probably migrated eastward during a dry postglacial period.

The origin of the sand in this locality can be traced back to early postglacial times when the Kankakee Torrent (4) was at its height. The flood waters carried large quantities of outwash material in the form of sand and gravel and deposited it in the Illinois valley south of the Bloomington moraine. This was followed by a migration of plants from several directions, some remaining permanently in the sand barrens while others disappeared due to changes in environmental conditions. Whether *Actinea herbacea* is a survivor of early postglacial times or whether it is a newcomer in this locality, is difficult to say. Since the area in which it was found was not large, it could easily have been overlooked by former investigators. Perhaps it is found in other localities and the accompanying photograph may be of service to other workers in the identification of the plant.

MANUAL TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Bibliography

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